

purpureus, Cant., to be the same as *L. effrenis*; the latter has three labials in contact with the eye, the former only two. The type of *Lycodon ophiteoides*, Blkr., is preserved in the British Museum.

2. *Simotes Meyerinkii*, Steind., is, I suggest, only a variety of *S. octolineatus*, Schn.
3. *Chalcides Simonyi*, Steind., from Fuertaventura, I regard as a variety of *C. viridanus*, and as there is a *C. viridanus*, var. *Simonyi*, either of the names will have to be changed. My reason for not accepting *C. Simonyi* as a valid species, although some of its characters do not fit into the diagnosis I have given of *C. viridanus* (Cat. Liz. iii. p. 402) is that a female specimen from Grand Canary, preserved in the British Museum, falling, as regards coloration, into Steindachner's var. *bistriata*, β , and with 36 scales round the middle of the body, agrees precisely in its proportions with *C. Simonyi*, as may be seen from the following measurements:—

| | millim. |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| From snout to vent | 87 |
| From snout to fore limb | 25 |
| Head (to ear-opening) | 13 |
| Width of head | 10 |
| Fore limb | 15 |
| Hind limb | 22 |
| Tail (reproduced) | 78 |

4. *Molge Luschani*, Steind.—I have no doubt this is a *Salamandra*. There seems to be less difference between *Salamandra Luschani* and *S. caucasica* than between the latter and *S. maculosa*.

X.—Description of a new Snake from Nubia.

By G. A. BOULENGER.

Gongylophis Muelleri.

Rostral large and broad, with angular horizontal edge; upper surface of snout and crown with small smooth shields, the largest of which is an azygous shield behind and wedged in between the internasals, which form a short suture behind the rostral; five shields from eye to eye across the forehead; nine or ten scales round the eye, which is separated from the labials by a single series of scales; nine upper labials. Scales

perfectly smooth, in 41 to 45 rows. Ventrals 181-187; anal small, entire; subcaudals 16-19. Tail pointed, ending in a curved, claw-like, horny scute, as I have described in *Eryx Jayakari*. Cream-colour, above with a dorsal series of large dark-brown blotches, some of which alternate and are confluent into a zigzag band; a lateral series of smaller dark brown spots, alternating with the dorsals.

Total length 370 millim.; tail 30.

Two examples of this species from Sennar, obtained by the Italian traveller Marno, were noticed by Dr. F. Müller in his Catalogue of the Reptiles in the Basle Museum (Verh. nat. Ges. Basel, vi. 1878, p. 650), and provisionally referred to *Eryx jaculus*. Through the kindness of Dr. Müller I have now received one of the two specimens, and feel no hesitation in pronouncing it to belong to a new species, with which it gives me great pleasure to connect the name of my friend the distinguished herpetologist.

This now brings the number of *Eryces* (*Eryx* and *Gongylophis*) to eight, which may be easily distinguished by means of the following synopsis:—

I. A mental groove: *Eryx*, Daud.

A. Eyes latero-superior, separated from each other by six or more longitudinal series of scales; tail obtuse or obtusely pointed.

a. Anal shield small; ventrals and subcaudals narrow.

54-65 scales across the middle of the body; ventrals 194-210 *E. Johnii*, Russ.

40-50 scales across the middle of the body; ventrals 165-200 *E. jaculus*, L.

36 scales across the middle of the body; ventrals 184 *E. elegans*, Gray.

b. Anal shield large; ventrals and subcaudals broad, the former occupying at least one fourth the circumference of the body . . . *E. sennariensis*, Jan.

B. Eyes entirely on the upper surface of the head, separated from each other by four longitudinal series of scales; tail pointed, ending in a curved, claw-like, horny scute. *E. Jayakari*, Blgr.

II. No mental groove: *Gongylophis*, Wagl.

A. Scales keeled, at least on the hind part of the body; tail ending in a conical scute.

8-10 keeled scales from eye to eye across the forehead; rostral without angular edge; scales in 40-49 rows *G. conicus*, Schn.

12-15 smooth scales from eye to eye across the forehead; rostral with angular horizontal edge; scales in 47-53 rows *G. thebaicus*, Reuss.

B. Scales smooth, in 41-45 rows; tail ending in a curved, claw-like scute; 5 smooth scales from eye to eye across the forehead. *G. Muelleri*, Blgr.

XI.—*Descriptions of Three new Gerbilles in the British Museum Collection.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

Gerbillus calurus, sp. n.

Size medium. Ears rather large, laid forward they reach 1 millim. in front of the anterior canthus of the eye. Mammæ, as usual, 2—2=8. Palms naked, with the usual five pads, the two large basal ones subequal in size. Soles quite naked, the proximal halves smooth and shining, the distal halves very coarsely granulated and bearing six large and prominent pads. Tail considerably longer than the head and body, even without its terminal tuft of hairs; coarsely scaly, the rings of scales averaging about fourteen to the centimetre; thickly clothed all round with long coarse hairs 13 to 18 millim. in length from within an inch of its base to its tip, the whole tail being as bushy as in many *Myoxidæ*; its colour apparently has been a dark rich brown or black throughout its length, except at its tip, where the terminal half-inch is white or yellow.

Colour of the body apparently as usual in the genus, yellowish or rufous above and whitish below, but, like the colours of the tail, they must be taken with great reservation, as the only specimen is in a very bad condition and has been at least fifty years in spirit.

Skull with a long, slender muzzle, narrow interorbital region, large bullæ, whose posterior portion is much swollen and appears in an upper view of the skull, and projects posteriorly just beyond the level of the occipital bone.

Upper incisors bevelled, with a single deep groove. Molars of the type so worn that the three laminae of \underline{m}^1 are connected by two central bridges; these two bridges are, however, not directly in front of one another, the anterior being at a markedly more internal level than the posterior. As far, however, as can be judged in the present state of wear, the teeth are decidedly those of *Gerbillus* (*s. s.*), and not of the *Meriones* section of the group. Laminae as usual 3—2—1